No. 36, Vol. IX.] [OCTOBER, 1884.

THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

Quarterly Record.

LONDON:

KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW,

AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

All Communications to be addressed to the Editor, Exeter Hall, London.

Orders for Advertisements to be sent to R. K. Burt & Co., Fetter Lane.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee desire to express their grateful thanks to Mrs. Painter, for a parcel of worn Bibles; to Anonymous (Lewes), for a parcel of hats, bonnets, &c.; to Mrs. Ditmas, for a hamper of useful clothing; to H. P. Alleyne, Esq., for a parcel of old clothes and papers; to the Rev. R. Shepherd, for a parcel of books and papers; and to Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co., of 9, Paternoster Row, for a most acceptable grant of "Children's Friend," back numbers.

SCHOLARS' PRIZES.

CHRISTMAS, 1884.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union have again decided to award Prizes to Scholars for keeping attendances for twelve months and upwards to Christmas, 1884.

Large Bills containing the Rules (for affixing on Schoolroom walls) have been issued and sent to all the Ragged Schools in London. Others may be had at the Offices.

The APPLICATION FORMS will be ready early in December, and should be applied for at the OFFICE, EXETER HALL, W.C.

DAYS OF SPECIAL PRAYER.

The days fixed for *United Universal Prayer on behalf of Sunday Schools* are Sunday, October 19th, and Monday, the 20th. The Committee of the Ragged School Union earnestly plead for united petitions for the Divine blessing to be poured forth upon all efforts to win the erring to Christ, and trust that meetings will be held for this purpose in all the affiliated Ragged Schools and Missions.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1884.

A CHRISTIAN HERO.

THE illustration accompanying this article is a copy of a beautiful memorial figure placed in front of Essex Street Chapel, Strand, in honour of the great Robert Raikes. As the fertile thought of a locomotive engine was developed in the mind of George Stephenson, and England and the entire world are being covered with a network of railways, the heart of Raikes developed the idea of imparting religious instruction to the young, and Great Britain and the wide world are now being covered with a brilliant network of schools, the object of which is to catch the young and bring them to Christ.

The boy beautifully portrays the dominant motive in the mind of the great Christian philanthropist. He saw a number such in the streets of Gloucester, the victims of neglect, who were being manufactured into demons, and who were a self-acting locomotive pestilence. His heart was touched with pity—no mere passing emotion—and to work he set for their redemption. The ingenuity and contagiousness of love and pity were never more beautifully displayed. His whole nature was set on fire.

The figure, as wrought by the sculptor, beautifully illustrates the phrase, "Wise unto salvation." The boy has the open Scriptures before him; his mind has been quickened and his heart touched by the words of Jesus, and his upward look is evidence of a divine quickening. The sweet motto "Feed my lambs" crowns the pedestal.

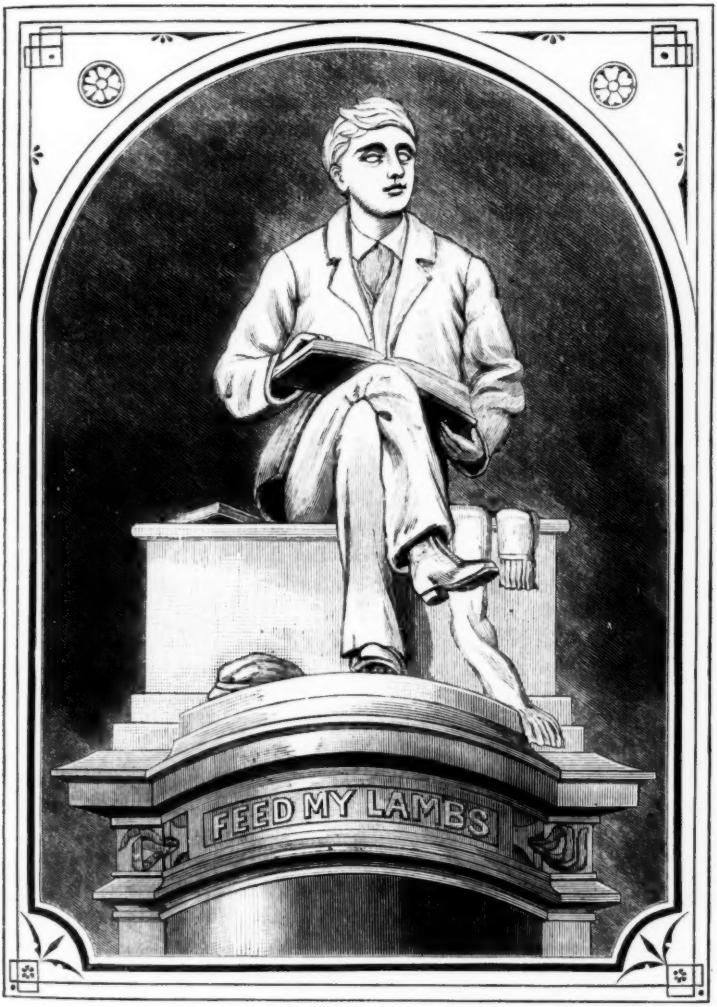
John Foster, in his exhaustive essay on popular ignorance, remarks "that after it had been seen for centuries in what manner

the children of the poor were suffered to spend the Sunday, it struck one observer at last that they might on that day be taught to read—a possibility which had never been suspected, a disclosure as of some hitherto hidden power of nature."

Robert Raikes was, it has been truly said, a John Howard of Gloucester. The amount of juvenile crime in his day was prodigious. He visited the Castle Prison, into which no less than sixty prisoners were admitted in one week. The repeated sight of such misery prepared the material that some apparent accident was predestined to ignite. His reply to an inquiry how the happy thought struck him of gathering children together on the Sabbath for religious instruction, as stated formally in a letter, is as follows:—

"The beginning of the scheme was entirely owing to accident, some business leading me one morning into the suburbs of the city, where the lowest of the people, who are principally employed in the pin manufactory, chiefly reside. I was struck with concern at seeing a group of children, wretchedly ragged, at play in the streets. I asked an inhabitant whether those children belonged to that part of the town, and lamented their misery and idleness. 'Ah, sir,' said the woman to whom I was speaking, 'could you take a view of this part of the town on a Sunday you would be shocked indeed, for then the street is filled with multitudes of those wretches who, released on that day from employment, spend their time in noise and riot, playing at chuck, and cursing and swearing in so horrid a manner as to convey to any serious mind an idea of hell rather than any other place. We have a worthy clergyman,' said she, 'curate of our parish, who has put some of them to school, but upon the Sabbath they are all given up to their own inclinations without restraint, as their parents, totally abandoned themselves, have no idea of instilling into the minds of their children principles to which they themselves are entire strangers.'"

He goes on to say that he has formed several Sunday Schools—that is, "churches of such little children as could be brought together in different neighbourhoods." And for the encouragement of others he speaks of the wonderful success attending the work: "A woman who lives in a lane where I had fixed a school told me some time ago that the place was quite a little heaven on


FEED MY LAMBS

Sundays compared to what it used to be. The numbers who have learned to read and to say their catechism are so great that I am astonished at it. The success that has attended this scheme has induced one or two of my friends to adopt the plan and set up Sunday Schools in other parts of the city. I have endeavoured to engage the clergy that reside in their parishes. One has entered into the scheme with fervour, and it was in order to excite others to follow the example that I inserted in my paper the paragraph which you saw copied into the London papers.

"I only require that they come to the school on Sunday as clean as possible. Many were at first deterred because they wanted decent clothing, but I could not undertake to supply that. I argue, therefore, that if you can loiter about without shoes, and in a ragged coat, you may as well come to school and learn what may tend to your good in that garb. All that I require are clean hands, clean face, and their hair combed. If you have no clean shirt, come in that you have on."

This was plain dealing, and as voluntary teachers were not to hand, paid teachers were engaged. Voluntary teachers were an afterthought. They now constitute the life of the church. In 1851 the educational census was given as 23,514 schools with 2,407,642 scholars. We shall see what it is now later on.

Meanwhile what a gratifying contrast is presented between the age of Elizabeth and that of Victoria. It is true that the age of Elizabeth was rendered illustrious by her personal qualities, by the eminent men she selected as her trusted advisers, by the brilliant events that marked her lengthened reign, and especially for the eminent men of genius who won imperishable fame. Of her reign Foster asks, "Was not that an age of the highest glory to our nation? Why repress our delight on contemplating it? How can we refuse to indulge an inspiring sympathy with the energy of those times; an elation of spirit at beholding the unparalleled allotment to her reign of statesmen, heroes, and literary geniuses, but for whom indeed 'that bright occidental star would have left no such brilliant track of fame behind her.' What should the intellectual condition of the people, properly so denominated, have been in order to correspond in a due proportion to the magnificence of these their representative chiefs, and complete the grand spectacle as that of a nation?

Determine that, and then inquire what actually was the state of the people all this while. What it was is shown by the fact that it was found impossible, even under the inspiring auspices of the learned Elizabeth, with her constellation of orators, geniuses, and scholars, to supply the churches generally with officiating persons capable of going with decency through the task of the public service, made ready, as every part of it was, to their hands, and that to be able to read was the very marked distinction of here and there an individual.

"The general mass of the population, whose physical vigour, indeed, and courage, and fidelity to the interests of the country, were of such admirable avail to the purposes, and under the direction of the mighty spirits that wielded their rough agency, —this great assemblage was sunk in such mental barbarism as to be placed at about the same distance from their illustrious intellectual chiefs as the hordes of Scythia from the finest spirits of Athens.

"The vices of this and following periods had the grossness of vice. Their favourite amusements were at best rude and boisterous, and a large proportion of them savage and cruel. So that when we look at the shining wits, poets, and philosophers of that age, they appear like gaudy flowers growing in a putrid marsh."

The age of Victoria, on the contrary, is noticeable for its great religious and philanthropic agencies; for its Ragged Schools, centres of light and love; for its Elementary Schools, for the education of the masses; for its Sunday Schools, outstripping State and Board Schools in the numbers in attendance; for its Penny Post, possible only among a nation of writers; for its cheap and multiform literature, possible only among a nation of readers; for its free, cheap, and Argus-eyed Press, holding the mirror up to history and catching the fresh gleams of events as they emerge from the womb of time; and for other manifold institutions, such as Homes, Refuges, Orphanages, &c., adapted to meet the varied wants and miseries of humanity, which time would fail to enumerate. We will conclude by saying that it is an age of Mercy.

Slavery and the slave trade are well-nigh things of the past. Other forms of slavery, it is hoped, are rapidly drifting into oblivion; drunkenness is held up to scorn and smitten with

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Herculean blows; cruelty to inferior animals, which was incident to an age of ignorance, has been superseded by kindness, and the coster himself has become not only civilised but christianised. It is especially a children's age. The heirs of the world are being prepared for their inheritance. The question of the hour is "The Housing of the Poor." This, to some minds, is an apparently insoluble question, inasmuch as it embraces a variety of questions, such as early marriages; the marrying on precarious and insufficient means, unhallowed intercourse and the reckless multiplication of offspring, and other forms of uncleanness and improvidence. But our hope is that Sunday Schools, Day Schools, Gospel light and general culture, accompanied by the highest inspiring influence, will ultimately render these evils infrequent if not impossible.

We will draw these remarks to a close by citing some pregnant words from the speech of Mr. Mundella, M.P., Vice-President of the Council of Education, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sunday School Union, as showing the progress of Sunday Schools. It had been predicted by some persons that the spread of compulsory day-school education would not only disgust the scholars and cause a revolt from Sunday attendance, but would also do away with the necessity for Sunday Schools and lead to their gradual decline. Such an ominous foreboding meets with ample refutation in the excellent speech from which we quote a few passages. He says:—

"I believe that in the past, certainly within this century, one of the most important factors in the moral and religious development of the English people has been the Sunday School. There are tens of thousands of men in England to-day, in the enjoyment of prosperity and wealth, who owe their entire education to the Sunday School. I remember when I first became a teacher in the Sunday School, what laborious drudgery it was; how we had to deal with boys and girls of advanced age, to teach them to read and write—for the copy-books were not abolished in my time—and how difficult it was to enable them to put two or three letters together, or to approach their intellect with anything like religious truth. That has happily all disappeared. Perhaps not altogether yet, but at any rate it is fast disappearing. Now your excellent secretary, Mr. Fountain J. Hartley, has recently published some

"STATISTICS THAT ARE OF THE MOST STARTLING CHARACTER.

"I say they are startling because, while I had made computations which astonished me, Mr. Hartley's statistics have gone largely beyond

my computation. I know a year or two ago when I was investigating the comparative number of children in our public elementary Day Schools of Great Brittain and the number attending Sunday Schools, Mr. Hartley maintained that there were something like, as far as he could judge, though he had not been able to take stock then completely —something like four millions of children in Sunday Schools in England and Wales. Well, that was more than we had at that time in the Day Schools of England and Wales, notwithstanding all our compulsory powers, and notwithstanding the fact that we had some 600,000 of our children in infant schools too young, as a rule, to be in Sunday School. Well, this set me at work to make my own inquiries.

"WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

"Is it true that the working people of England are so inclined by tradition, by early training, and by conviction, to give their children a religious education, that they will send them more freely to the Sunday School than they will to the Day School? Ladies and gentlemen, I have arrived at the conclusion, on facts which are beyond question, that they are so inclined. I took a test of certain towns with which I was well aquainted. I took the town I have the honour to represent—the town of Sheffield—and I am glad to see my friend, Mr. Innocent, who does such good work in connection with it—and I obtained from the most authoritative sources, from Mr. Innocent, from the rector of the old parish church of Sheffield on behalf of the church schools, and from other sources, the exact number of children on the rolls of the Sunday Schools of Sheffield, and I did this with respect to three or four other towns, and in every case the numbers on the rolls of the Sunday Schools exceeded the numbers on the rolls of the Day Schools. That seemed to me to furnish an unanswerable answer—that is a statement which cannot be gainsaid. Mr. Fountain J. Hartley, in his able statement, has shown that whereas in 1851 only about thirteen and a half per cent. of the population attended Sunday Schools in England and Wales, there is to-day twenty per cent. Well, that is an enormous increase. The number attending Sunday Schools, according to Mr. Hartley's statement, is 5,200,000 children taught by over 600,000 teachers. Well, the number on the rolls of our elementary schools to-day is about 4,300,000 children, as against 1,660,000 so recently as 1870.

"What deduction do I draw from these facts? That the expansion and extension of religious teaching in England has been within the last fourteen years as great as the increase in the secular teaching of the population, and that the two have kept pace with each other, and have helped each other.

"THE BEST METHODS OF TEACHING.

"We had—I know what it was—a long room which would serve occasionally for an evening meeting with ten or twenty classes—a Babel of sounds, no class-rooms, little concentration, and little reverence; now all that I hope is passing away. Now as I am speaking of Sunday School work

may I just refer to some remarkable feature which London society hardly believes in, which is unknown, I think, in the upper ten thousand. In the town I represent I believe the little body known as the Society of Friends have Sunday Schools for men. Two thousand men attend them. In the town of Birmingham I am told there are from twelve to fourteen thousand working men assembled every Sunday morning at their Bible-classes. Ladies and gentlemen, these are not indications that we are about to become a godless people. No, no, if Christian people will only do their duty the Anglo-Saxon people will respond to every call of duty. Look at the fact that among the *English-speaking people throughout the world there are no less than twelve millions of children attending Sabbath Schools.* This is an institution that is peculiarly English. It began with us, it arose from our necessities; *it was the work of one man,* who has been a great benefactor to his species."

Raikes's scholars, it is very clear, were a set of ragamuffins. His first school was set up in the house of a Mrs. King, which was literally a Ragged School, and this was indeed a truly grand idea to begin at the bottom. The coronation of Love is its redemption of the outcast. And rapidly as the idea of Sunday teaching spread, except in a few isolated cases, there was no formulated scheme for reaching waifs and strays, and vicious and criminal children, till the establishment of the Ragged School Union under the auspices of Earl Shaftesbury, then Lord Ashley. A mental and moral atmosphere was then generated favourable to the production and development of those seeds of the human heart, whose birth with vigorous life, assuming visible shape as wide-spreading institutions, has brought blessings manifold to the perishing. As flames of fire, as impersonations of charity they came, so that scarcely a dark or sterile or moral plague-spot but has felt their brightening, their quickening, or their healing power.

The great and rapid augmentation in the attendance on Sunday for religious instruction should stimulate the Church to employ her ablest sons and daughters in the blessed work. Only those who have the mind of Christ can, so to speak, impart it.

SPEECH OF LORD SHAFTESBURY—*Correction.*—In the April number, on page 80, fifth line from bottom, a serious slip occurs. For "ill-begotten" please read "forgotten."

KINGSLAND INSTITUTE FOR WORKING GIRLS.

On July 12th the Kingsland Institute for Working Girls and Nursing Association opened their new premises in Ridley Road, Dalston. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., presided, and was supported by Mr. Arthur Pease, M.P., Rev. W. Spensley, Mr. J. E. Mathieson, Mr. G. Holland; Dr. Laseron, of the Training Hospital, Tottenham; Mr. R. J. Curtis, Ragged School Union, and others.

The Chairman said he had great pleasure in being present at the opening of this new institution, and to express his thankfulness for the progress of the past, and hope for success in the future. He had been engaged lately in some investigations into the condition of those who were destitute, and in considering what could be done to raise

them out of that state of life which was a scandal to the nation. Those who had not seen for themselves could have no conception of the true state of affairs—father, mother, and five or six, and even eight children sometimes living in a single room, under physical and moral conditions of the worst description. The impression on his mind was that they required to see more of their poor neighbours' needs to be stirred up to do justice to them, and to seek and find out some mode of bridging over the gulf between the rich and poor. Forty years ago the rich merchant lived among the people where he carried on his business, but now, for the sake of the health of his wife and family, as was only right and natural, he lived in some suburban neighbourhood. So the tie between classes was loosened, and sympathy was lessened. No doubt, with the increase of wealth poverty increased, but it would be well if the rich would go out of their way a little to find out the wants of the masses. Young women in factories and workshops, and the poor day servant-maid, were in very unfavourable circumstances when left to their own resources, and any effort to get them together under good influence was a commendable act. He had watched this movement from its early days, and he was always ready to do anything to strengthen the hands of the friends in their work. It meets the wants of young girls who after their day's toil had nowhere to go but a wretched home. At this institute they could spend a quiet evening, in social and intellectual amusement, under the kind and Christian influence of ladies who were anxious to preserve them from the dangers to which they were exposed, and make their life more bright.

Miss Roberts, the hon. superintendent, made a statement with reference to the institution. It took its rise some nine or ten years ago as a Night School for women and girls, when three or four friends working in a Sunday School were very much concerned on account of the poor ignorant girls who loitered about the street corners of an evening. They hired a room twice a week, and were successful in getting a good number of girls to come. They then formed Blanket and Coal Clubs, classes of various kinds, Mothers' Meetings, and a Library; 440 names had been entered on the books, and over £100 had been subscribed by the members themselves for coals. Three Bible-women nurses had been employed, and a Bible-woman had been granted them free of cost. In the present building they hoped to have two resident nurses to visit sick cases, free of charge, all round Shacklewell and Dalston. The objects of the association were to keep the girls from the streets of an evening from 6.30 to 9.30, to provide quiet games and amusements, to establish Bible-classes, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Sewing,

and Knitting Classes, and Sunday Afternoon Religious Services of a homely sort. The girls whom it was sought to benefit were door-step cleaners, "charing" girls, young day servants, and such of the poor and rougher order as were often found at the street corners, and whose future so often ended in moral ruin. She (Miss Robarts) was informed that at Dalston Junction a policeman was stationed, and his principal employment was to keep the street clear from this class of girls. As far as possible, the girls who attended at the institute were never lost sight of, their addresses being taken, and visits made to their homes. It was hoped that sleeping rooms* would be added shortly, and as their chairman had suggested, refreshment rooms to provide cheap dinners and teas. They required an income of £500 per annum, but had only got subscriptions certain to the amount of £100. The good attendances at the Night School proved that these poor girls really appreciated something better than the entertainments they found in the streets or public-houses, and the committee earnestly begged those who carefully sheltered their own families to aid them in their efforts to rescue some of these poor degraded girls, and to keep them from drifting into further sin.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE, M.P., moved, and Mr. J. E. MATHIESON seconded the following resolution—"That this meeting deplores the present condition of many of the young women of the working class, who have a strong claim upon the practical sympathy of those who are interested in the true progress of the people." This having been carried, Mr. G. HOLLAND moved, and Mr. R. J. CURTIS (Ragged School Union) seconded—"That this meeting heartily sympathises with the objects of the Kingsland Institute for Working Girls and Nursing Association, and pledges itself to use its influence to promote the interests of those concerned." This was agreed to.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the proceedings were brought to a close by the Benediction being pronounced.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

A MEETING was held on June 10 at the Mansion House in order to form a society to be known as the London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The chair was occupied by Alderman Cotton, the Lord Mayor through pressing engagements being elsewhere.

The chair was supported by the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, the Baroness

* Sleeping and refreshment rooms will be provided. (Funds are needed.)—ED.

Burdett Coutts, Cardinal Manning, Mr. Wm. Fowler, Mr. Kegan Paul, Mr. A. O. Charles (Secretary of the Little Boys Home), Messrs. J. Kirk and R. J. Curtis (Secretaries of the Ragged School Union), Mr. B. Waugh, Mr. F. Agnew, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, after stating that the meeting was called in response to a petition list no less than eighteen feet long, observed that little was known of the cruelties practised upon children, and anything that could be done to prevent their continuance would be a lasting blessing.

The first resolution was moved by the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, recognising the need of such a society. It is a great marvel, said his lordship, that in these days, when so much has been done for children, such a movement should be a necessity; but so it is. Nothing is more frightful than the sufferings inflicted on little acrobats, for instance, during the period of training. There are others who are trained to act as "imps," their trainers being called "imp" women. One of these poor children he recently saw, bruised in thirty places, and moaning terribly. He had also seen a little child, three years old, whose drunken mother had taught it to swear and blaspheme in public-houses for money. A letter received that morning from a City missionary, told of the constant "low moans" of children heard by him in his daily rounds of visitation. He hoped ere long to see the whole class of young children brought under protection. It was not so much new laws that are wanted as an active body of men who will put these principles into operation. This excellent movement is not an experiment, as it has been tried with great success at Liverpool, Manchester, and several American cities.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH said: London never did a better thing than it is doing here to-day. The evil sought to be remedied is one of the worst sores in our social system. One form of cruelty is that of sending out children into the streets at night, nearly naked, and kept out by drunken parents. He had seen them on bitter snowy nights sleeping on doorsteps. This, however, was forbidden now in Liverpool, and he hoped it soon would be in London. The idea has long existed that parents have a right to do as they like with their own children, and that nobody could interfere; but it is high time the law declared itself on this matter. Existing laws have not been enforced, and even if they were there would then remain a vast amount of cruelty that would not come within the scope of their administration. A society such as this is therefore the only thing that will meet the evil.

The Earl of ABERDEEN expressed himself in thorough sympathy with this movement, and believed it would not only prevent much

cruelty to children, but also be a means of raising the tone of feeling in the parents.

A discussion, led off by Cardinal MANNING, brought out that although parents can be proceeded against for neglect, yet there is no law to restrain them from employing their children as acrobats, or even selling them for that purpose.

Mr. A. O. CHARLES said an agent was already engaged in the work contemplated by the present movement, by whose efforts hundreds of cases of cruelty had been dealt with.

The meeting was further addressed by Mr. Allanson Picton, M.P., Mr. Wm. Fowler, Dr. Barnardo, and Mr. Kegan Paul.

The CHAIRMAN in closing referred in laudatory terms to Hesba Stretton, to whom the movement in London is owing, and congratulated the meeting on the successful inauguration of the society.

"A LIGHT IN A DARK PLACE:"

BEING A SKETCH OF THE EARLY HISTORY, STRUGGLES AND TRIUMPHS OF THE DEPTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL.

(*Continued from p.* 72.)

IT appears from the Ragged School Union Report for the year 1846, that the school was next removed to what had been a stable-loft (but had more recently been used as a carpenter's shop) over a yard in Giffin Street, on the same side as the present building, but nearer High Street. It accommodated eighty children and was always full on Sundays. Here it continued until 1848, when it was removed to some premises at the back of a public-house called the Admiral Duncan in the New Cross Road, at the end of Duncan Yard, leading out of High Street, in which two rooms were hired.

In the year following (1849) a Week-night School was established. Two years later a Day School was added, and the following year (1852) an Infant Class and a Provident Clothing Fund. The Ragged School Union Report for 1853 speaks of their being at this time "cramped for room;" and the school continued to increase until 1854, although it had been found necessary to close it for three months owing to the retirement of the first paid teacher.

During this year, however, the Committee obtained such additional pecuniary help from the neighbourhood, aided by a substantial grant from the Ragged School Union, together with such an accession of earnest workers, that they determined to rent a building in Giffin Street, a chapel formerly used by the Baptists, and vacated by them

on their removal to Zion Chapel, New Cross Road; and in September, 1855, they removed to this building, which they have occupied ever since, and the freehold of which they have now secured.

It is difficult to say for how long or how short a period the school was connected with High Street Congregational Church; the earliest printed Report extant (1858) shows that evangelical Churchmen and members of other Protestant denominations worked as now side by side.

The increased expenditure and want of teachers occasionally gave the Committee some anxiety, but the school continued to improve in efficiency and to increase in numbers. So improved, indeed, had these lads become that the Committee cease to speak of "roughs," or of interruptions and insubordination, of teachers ill-used by lawless lads, or of their being abused by their ignorant and drunken parents, or of damage done to the building, or materials broken or destroyed. Order, indeed, became so complete in every department of the school, and teachers so respected and beloved, alike by scholars and their parents, that the Committee devoutly exclaim "What hath God wrought!"

At this time (1859) they had an average of 160 children attending the Day School and of 100 in the Night School; and the lads are reported to have so improved in cleanliness, industry, and behaviour as to present quite an altered appearance from former times. In the Sunday School, although occasionally lacking teachers, they had average attendances of 50 morning, 100 afternoon, and 180 evening.

There was at this time, too, a Tailors' Class for boys, in which lads were taught to alter, make, and mend garments, and in connection with this a Provident Fund, by which means they could often obtain decent clothing. A Provident Fund was also established for the mothers.

In this year's Report we find the Committee tendering their thanks to our venerable President, Lord Shaftesbury, for the generous donations received through him, and to Lord Haddo for entertaining the children at his lordship's expense.

From this year onward to the present time the Reports record with varying success the many useful schemes which have from time to time been added to those previously in existence for the benefit of those for whom this institution was intended, the poorest of the poor. The Boot and Clothing Clubs, Provident Fund, and Penny Bank, have been the means of inducing thrift by offering an opportunity for the depositing of a few pence at a time, and for every shilling thus deposited granting twopence in addition. Many thus obtained a little money or clothing when specially needed, who otherwise would have been penniless or in rags.

A few particulars taken from the Report for the year 1882, regarding the useful work carried on, deserve to be of interest, as showing

THE PRESENT OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL.

THE MOTHERS' MEETING.—Number of members 43, average attendance 32. Their deposits in the Provident Fund amounted to £32 6s. 9½d. Amount repaid for clothing and coals supplied, £35 16s. 3d. Nine of the most destitute were supplied with blankets on loan for the winter.

THE BOOT CLUB.—This club numbers 100 members, whose subscriptions amounted to £12 9s. Boots were supplied to the value of £13 12s. 6d.

THE PENNY BANK shows a steady progress, which is best exhibited in the following statement:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Depositors' Balances at end of year.
1877	137	£25 12 11	£20 17 3	£4 15 8
1878	190	36 16 5	36 5 2	5 6 11
1879	207	32 19 11	30 9 6	7 17 4
1880	247	33 2 11	31 9 4	9 10 11
1881	330	66 2 0	61 17 6	13 15 5
1882	475	86 9 10	83 3 11	18 0 4

THE GIRLS' SEWING CLASS has an average attendance of about 60 during the winter and 30 during the summer months. 165 of the garments made by the girls were bought by them at a reduction of twopence in the shilling off the cost of the materials only.

THE WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE is open every week evening except Tuesday. It provides instruction, reading, and amusement for lads during the winter evenings. In the summer months cricket and football matches are played. The Institute is growing in appreciation; although it has been open only a year some 2,000 attendances are recorded, and when better accommodation enables the Committee to open it every evening and to increase its advantages it will have an enlarged sphere of usefulness.

The Sunday School attendances (boys and girls) are as follows:—

Morning 152, afternoon 261, evening 50.

It is sometimes asked what are the results of all the labour and expense lavished upon such a work, and the question is put as though the results were not commensurate with the toil. Those who ask in this strain may be pitied for their ignorance. What are the results? We answer, the results both in value and number are too vast for human calculation, they cannot be estimated. We can give only single instances now and again as samples of the bulk. Here are a few:—

Before the Board Schools came into full operation what were the results?

(*a*) As to mere *secular* knowledge.

It is certain that all the secular knowledge these poor outcasts obtained came from the Ragged School. Two instances may be cited:

"I knew nothing," said a poor girl to her former class-mate, "until I came to this school, I was so rude and ignorant."

A seaman who had been taught here, on returning from a voyage stood at the dockyard gate to watch for his former teacher, who had formerly been employed there. Not seeing him, he went to the school, and finding that his teacher had left Deptford, he expressed his thankfulness that he had learned to read, write, and cipher, adding that "it made him so much better off than his shipmates who could do neither, while the hymns that he used to sing at the school often came to his mind while he paced the deck at night."

Good old Dr. Guthrie's opinion as to all merely secular knowledge, however, will bear repeating and considering in these days. He used to say that "he knew of no regenerating influence in the multiplication table;" that while he did not disparage other kinds of knowledge than religious knowledge, yet that it might be said of all the "ologies" that were ever eulogised by any man, "Thou canst not minister to a mind diseased."

(*b*) But as to the religious teaching, what results have followed?

I. Negatively.

The present Bishop of Liverpool once said that the Bible saved many a man from the gallows that it did not save from perdition. This witness is true. The hearing of heavenly truths does often act as a restraining influence when those same truths are only half received; and, although we labour and pray for a full reception of the truth, yet, if the vicious are somewhat restrained in their vice, it is at least a benefit to them and to the community at large.

Take an instance as regards the vice of swearing, at one time common with mere infants;—so common that such an one was heard to utter a fearful expression, and, when reproved by his teacher said, "Mother says so, teacher."

Eight girls were leaving the school one day, when one of them uttered an oath; another of the girls reproved her, and threatened to tell her governess. Said one of their number, "Oh, don't tell her; it will make her so unhappy." Here was regret for, and disgust at, the crime, and a feeling of regard for her who had taught them better things; and in the Report for this year, this very governess remarks that she "had not to reprove one girl for swearing, so improved were they in this respect."

II. But as to *positive results* of the teaching of this higher knowledge.

Is it asked, What are they? We answer boldly, *manifold.* Let it not be forgotten, however, that the secret work of the Holy Spirit in the heart is often known to God alone and the soul that experiences it, and that it is often long maturing before there is any outward manifestation of its presence. How few such are chronicled upon earth! and of these we give only a few specimens.

It is recorded, in the Report of 1860, of a poor woman who had attended the Mothers' Class, that she "joyfully took her flight to the skies," and of a poor girl that she evinced the same joyful faith. A lad who had left the school for nine years returned to tell his teacher that nine years of sin had not wholly erased from his memory the lessons he had learned there, and to inquire again the way to Zion with his face thitherward; and it is subsequently added that both he and another lad had since found "joy and peace in believing," and had openly joined themselves to God's people. Is it not true, as we sometimes sing?—

> "Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
> Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
> Touched by a loving hand, wakened by kindness,
> Chords that were broken shall vibrate once more."

Another youth went to hear Mr. Spurgeon, and was so vividly reminded of the truths he had learned at this school that he had become, in 1868, an active member of that church.

Visiting a poor girl, whose parents were Roman Catholics, in her last illness she assured her teacher that she was resting on Jesus only, and her death was described by a neighbour as most triumphant.

Another who, being thus visited, when asked what she most wanted her teacher to pray for, replied, with starting tears, "A clean heart, teacher—a clean heart."

A little fellow, when very ill, prayed that "Jesus would make him better, or take him to heaven, whichever was His blessed will."

Another, who had learned himself to love Jesus, and who used to be a little missionary at home, carrying there the truths he loved, could not rest until he brought his mother one evening to the prayer-meeting.

Another little fellow, who was suffering from a very sore throat and could not sing, when near death sent for a like-minded classmate and asked him to sing his favourite hymn, "Jesus, tender shepherd, hear me."

Another lad so valued the prayers, and singing, and teaching,

that he would leave his breakfast untasted rather than be late for school.

A girl who had got a situation, when told by her mistress that as she could not spare her on her usual Sunday afternoon, she should have a holiday next day, when she could go to Greenwich Fair, went and spent the afternoon at the school in preference.

Several girls left wood-chopping because of depraved companions; the truths they heard taught them to shun such company.

Some poor children once contributed their farthings towards buying clothes for a very destitute scholar.

A poor boy kicked severely in the knee by a class-mate, so as to be rendered permanently lame, passed no reflections on the boy who did the injury, but said, "Though I do sometimes wish I could run about again and play like others, perhaps God knows best, and will make it turn out for my good."

Well might Dr. Guthrie exclaim, "We say of the Bible as David said of Goliath's sword, 'Give me that, there is nothing else like it.' Just put on the school door, '*The Bible is not taught here,*' and I will answer for it you will have no scholars. Perish the Ragged Schools if they can be kept up only by parting with the Bible."

These are a few of the known instances as examples only of the effect of the teaching of this higher knowledge. They might be multiplied. But what of the unknown instances?

The secret influence of such teaching goes on continually; it is still as of old "casting bread upon the waters, and finding it *after many days;*" sowing the seed "at all times, not knowing which shall prosper;" the wind blowing where it listeth—we "know not whence it cometh, nor whither it goeth;" but of this we are assured, that God's word shall never return to Him void; it shall accomplish that which He pleases, and prosper in the thing whereto He hath sent it.

It is no uncommon thing to meet in after life those whom we have befriended when children at the Ragged School; and such meetings are always full of evidence of the blessedness of Ragged Schools. "I owe my present position to you, sir;" or "I don't know what I should have done if it hadn't been for the Ragged School," are pleasant and refreshing things to hear from the lips of old scholars; and in the face of the testimony given in these pages, we say that the Ragged School system needs neither defence nor apology. What, we ask, would London have been by this time without the counteracting influence for good which this system has carried on? It has never yet received the amount of encouragement and support that it deserves.

The Board Schools have certainly relieved us of nearly all the more

secular teaching, but the mere modicum of religious teaching given by them renders our work in this special matter all the more necessary. What they do indifferently we must do thoroughly and well.

Moreover, it must be remembered that these lads and girls, and their parents too, are generally unconnected with any of the Christian churches, and but for the Ragged School would have *no religious instruction*. Lastly, the Board Schools leave these young people at the age of thirteen to use or misuse their knowledge. We endeavour to supply the deficiencies of the Board School by providing for them at this dangerous age, and in the evenings—the most dangerous time—with a place of refuge, where, away from filthy homes or evil associations, they may find wholesome reading or instruction, or healthful amusement, and means of grace for their souls.

For this work money is of course required, and will be supplied. What we want is men and women who, with faithfulness, steadfastness, and whole-heartedness, will consecrate themselves to this work. Here is an opportunity for tasting to the full what has been called "the luxury of doing good"—ample scope for the full exercise of every talent entrusted by the Author of every good and precious gift, to convey the message of peace and salvation to those who have little else to gladden their hearts or elevate their lives.

The premises in which the work is conducted are worn out. The freehold has been purchased. It is intended to rear a building more suitable to present needs as soon as funds are forthcoming. About £400 has been already contributed, which has been expended in the purchase of the freehold. The Ragged School Union promises £50. The Rev. Paxton Hood, out of love to the cause and as a memento of early days, gave a lecture at St. Peter's Schoolroom, Wickham Row, Lewisham High Road, on April 7, in aid of the fund.

A bazaar was held in the New Cross Hall, on the 11th of June, which produced about £600; some £600 more is still required.

Such a beautiful past, and such a vigorous future as an earnest body of teachers warrant us in expecting, will, it is hoped, inspire the public to give liberally of their substance for the continuance and extension of so noble a work among poor children.

Contributions will be thankfully received by the Secretary of the Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand; and by the Treasurer, W. Bristowe, Esq., Bexley Heath.

THE CANAL BOATS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On Thursday, August 7th, the bill, as altered by the Select Committee, to amend the Canal Boats Act of 1877, passed its third reading in the Upper House. The bill, as its title indicates, is supplemental to that passed seven years since for the amelioration of the condition of the boat people, the improvement of their floating homes, and the education of their children. It would not be easy to estimate the immense amount of good effected by the principal Act. Under it upwards of 8,000 canal boats have been registered as dwellings, with accommodation for nearly 40,000 persons, or about one-half of the entire canal population. But, despite the large powers conferred on the registration authorities and sanitary inspectors, experience of the working of the Act very soon served to show it was far from being a perfect measure. Indeed, notwithstanding the very appreciable improvement it brought about, overcrowding in the cabins and neglect of the children's education still obtained to an extent which, to use the mildest expression possible, left very much indeed to be desired. The paper read before the Social Science Congress, held at Huddersfield last autumn, by Mr. George Smith, of Coalville, to whose powerful advocacy, unfailing courage, and devoted self-sacrifice is mainly—ay, almost entirely—due this legislation in the interest of a neglected and too often degraded class, contained terrible revelations concerning the conditions under which the daily life of many of these people is still unhappily passed. "I could tell this Congress," he said, "of things that have taken place in the cabins and on the towing-path that would cause the ears to tingle and the face to turn pale of every England-loving English man and woman, if they did but know the facts." He then instanced, as delicately as he might, two cases which had come under his own observation, and which, for all their horror of detail, may compare with anything we—who, in our vocation of journalism, have made ourselves tolerably familiar with the seamier phases of existence and the surroundings of "Poor Humanity" in the darkest quarters of "Horrible London"—have ever witnessed. To remedy those defects in the Canal Boats Act that made such a state of things possible, he drafted an Amendment Bill, which, though somewhat modified by the Select Committee on whom the consideration of this matter devolved, was substantially identical with the measure now awaiting the royal assent.

The partial failure of the principal Act was felt to be due to, *inter alia*, its, to a great extent, permissible character; the absence of provision for the compulsory annual registration of boats; the omission to make a breach of its regulations, on the part of either boatmen or

boatowners, a penal offence; and the grave mistake of entrusting the carrying out of the measure to the local authorities—usually resident some twenty or thirty, not seldom forty or fifty miles apart—instead of appointing officers, empowered to visit boats working between the registration districts and to inspect them at reasonable times, who should supervise, enforce, and report to Parliament upon the working of the Act. That the bill just passed will suffice to prevent in future any non-compliance with or evasion of the provisions of the Act, we cannot doubt; we are only surprised so humane, simple, and beneficent a measure has provoked, in certain quarters outside the Legislature, so strenuous and persistent an opposition. That it involves undue interference with individual liberty we cannot allow; moreover, had such been the case, it would have met with a very different reception from that it has experienced at the hands of practical men of either party in both Houses of Parliament. The strongest objection advanced in either place was that of Lord Wemyss, who complained that the powers given by the bill for the inspection of canal boats are more stringent than those in operation for the inspection of houses, since the latter dwellings can only be inspected when there is reason to believe some nuisance exists, and the visit of the inspector is limited to certain hours—to wit, from nine o'clock in the morning to six o'clock at night. But the evidence taken by the Select Committee places beyond all doubt whatever the supreme necessity for such inspection; while, as Lord Carington explained, the fact that a boat is always on the move from six o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night renders an extension of the time of inspection, for at least three hours longer, imperative. With regard to another objection advanced outside Parliament—that the bill will prove prejudicial to canal traffic and induce a diminution of the trade—we will only say that, to cite an analogous case, our national experience of the beneficent results of factory legislation precludes our taking any such contingency into serious consideration.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Smith upon the passing of the bill. We feel he would have been better pleased had the Select Committee not thought it necessary to excise a clause submitted by him, and enacting that "the expression 'canal boats,' 'canal boat,' and 'boat,' in the principal Act and this Act, and also in the regulations of the Local Government Board and Education Department, shall include all travelling and temporary dwellings not rated for the relief of the poor." The adoption of this clause would have brought within the operation of the Act the great but ragged army of gipsy, van, and show children, in an endeavour to ameliorate whose pitiable condition Mr. Smith has spent not a few of the best years of his life. This

portion of our nomad population, however, will, it is satisfactory to know, be the object of special legislation on similar lines at an early date. To have primarily suggested, and persistently advocated during many years and in spite of powerful opposition, and to have eventually caused to be placed on the Statute Book three measures of so widely beneficent a character as the Brickyards Act, 1871, the Canal Boats Act, 1877, and the Canal Boats Act Amendment Act, 1884, is an achievement of which any man may well be proud. The Brickyards Act sent 20,000 children to school. The Canal Boats Act was, in a great degree, a tentative measure; nevertheless, now that its defects have been repaired by supplemental legislation, by its means education is brought within the reach of 30,000 hitherto uninstructed boys and girls. We opine that the author of these measures is entitled to something more tangible than compliment, that his life-long labours in the cause of outcast and suffering juvenile humanity are deserving of solid recognition and recompense. The bill provides for the appointment of one or more inspectors, who shall inquire as to the observance of the regulations of the principal and amended Acts, and be invested with similar powers to those exercised by Poor-law inspectors under the Acts relating to the relief of the poor. It goes without saying that on the zeal and efficiency of such officials will mainly depend the successful working of the Act. And none will question Mr. Smith's pre-eminent qualifications for the appointment. —*Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette.*

[It is a matter of deep regret that Mr. Smith has not the appointment of inspector conferred on him, but it is hoped that the Government will bestow on him some substantial recognition of his services. —Ed.]

THE SUMMER OUTING.

It is the practice of nearly all schools in this great metropolis to have a day on the forest or the common, or amidst the fields beyond the ken of the Great Babylon, during the bright summer weather. It seems, indeed, to have grown into a universal practice amongst the low as well as the high to migrate for a shorter or longer period to the seaside; or of those more adventurous and enterprising, with longer leisure and more ample means, the wing is spread for a bolder flight, over the broad Atlantic, or down the Mediterranean, or soaring to dizzy heights above the home of the eagle, where restful change is sought amongst scenes in which man and nature present themselves under aspects of engaging novelty.

Mind and body are both refreshed by these intervals of brightness, and material is acquired for those hues and lustres with which imagination in days or even years to come will invest some of the more prosaic events of distant travel.

"The day in the country," says the *Times*, "is a mode of diversion which has grown in recent years, and no doubt it does some good. It is something to get a vanload of palefaced humanity away from the atmosphere of courts and alleys, and into the green fields, if only for a day. It is something to give the children of the East End and of St. Giles's even the shortest glimpse of the face of nature."

For some thirty years the Ragged School Union Committee, through the gracious appeal of their President, the Earl of Shaftesbury, to a generous public, has raised a fund wherewith to take out the poorest schools from such squalid quarters as those indicated. Without such help some of its poorest children would sigh in vain for that refreshment which the amplitudes and beatitudes of nature so generously bestow.

THE EARL'S LETTER.

"The Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, London, W.C.

"May 29th, 1884.

"May I repeat my customary appeal at this season of the year in aid of a fund to provide the Committee with the means of giving the poor children of many of the Ragged Schools a day's enjoyment in the country.

"In addition to the day's holiday, it is proposed to give a fortnight's change of air to the few convalescent or enfeebled children specially needing it.

"The number who will thus obtain this great moral and physical benefit, as well as the extended holiday, must depend upon the response to this appeal, which I earnestly commend to your generous sympathy.

"SHAFTESBURY."

July the 4th was the happy day on which some eighteen schools by road and rail wended their pleasant way to Bushey Park. The summer brightness was one of unusual splendour, and nothing occurred from morn to dewy eve to mar its glory. The following account of this festive occasion appeared in the *Christian World* from the graphic pen of Mr. G. Holden Pike, under the heading of "Ragged Schools at Hampton Court":—

"The chief juvenile outing of the season, as arranged by the Ragged School Union, came off on Friday last, when three thousand children and teachers spent the day at Hampton Court and Bushey Park. The scholars of a number of schools in various parts of London

assembled ready for the start at 8.30; and on their arrival at their destination with their banners, intent on making the most of their brief stay in the sweet country, the scene was one such as Hogarth or Cruikshank would have loved to have portrayed. Some of the little excursionists were really in rags, others had neither shoes nor stockings, and the effluvia of the courts, where many led a pining existence, mingled with the summer breeze. At noon they sat on the green sward for dinner provided by their schools or by themselves; and at 3.30 an excellent tea was served to the whole muster by Mr. Earee, whose headquarters, with one capacious van laden with 800 baker's loaves, resembled the commissariat department of an invading army. The bread-and-butter, the cake and the tea, were served out *ad libitum*. There was also a great distribution of toys, besides competing for prizes, &c. Luncheon was served for about 300 teachers and friends at 1 o'clock; and before the guests dispersed, Dr. Leone Levi gave a brief address, in the course of which he remarked, that he considered it an honour and a privilege to attend as a representative of the Committee of the Ragged School Union. He had sat at their board for some years, and consequently knew the anxious interest which all the members took in the schools. Every case was thoroughly investigated, and assistance was given not *pro forma*, for they knew the money given would be well spent. They possessed a boon in their secretaries; no two men could be more interested in their work. The Professor then referred to the honour which the City had conferred on Lord Shaftesbury, which had come very late in the day, but it was never too late to mend; and the Earl would defend the rights but not the abuses of the City of London. The scene around—the green fields and the pleasant faces of the children—was something to enjoy; it was a happy thing to have those thousands gathered by the Ragged School Union. After tea, which was served at 5 o'clock, Mr. W. J. Orsman, as another member of the Committee, in speaking of the children present, said that some would go forth into the colonies to make places for themselves; but while they would lose sight of each other for years, one bond of fellowship would still unite them in heart. He regretted the absence of Lord Shaftesbury, whose heart would have been gladdened by the spectacle of that day. In the early days of Ragged Schools, some teachers used to get a shilling a Sunday, but now they received something better in the sympathies of their scholars. After a few words from Mr. Jeffs, Mr. R. J. Curtis replied to a vote of thanks accorded to himself and colleague, Mr. J. Kirk. He felt sure that a more earnest, self-denying set of teachers could not be found, and as he looked around was proud of them. A few words followed from Mr. Kirk, and after two hours more of enjoyment

the large party returned to London in vans and trains, long to remember the outing of 1884.

A Fortnight in Country Homes.

The Union, while mindful of the day's outing, has not been neglectful of the larger question of the fortnight's outing for weak and ailing children. This movement, which originated in the kindness of Miss Courtauld, has been continued by her for the past four years, the only cost to the Society's funds being the railway fare. During the period mentioned some 99 children have shared the benefit provided—viz., of being located, two or more together, in some charming cottage-home in the neighbourhood of Halstead, for the term of a fortnight, under the kind supervision of this generous-hearted lady. Such great advantage has accrued from this extended outing that this year the practice has been more widely extended. An appeal for this object having been generously responded to, homes have been procured for a larger number of children. This has been accomplished at an increased expenditure, for, in addition to the railway fare, some 5s. weekly for the keep has been added. The homes so selected by the Country Holidays Fund have been such as for pure air and beautiful surroundings would strengthen the weak, brighten the dull, and paint roses on pallid cheeks; and the reality has fully equalled the expectation. The visit has pleased the cottagers, delighted the children, made the hearts of the parents to overflow with gratitude, and amply repaid in satisfaction this Union for all the cost of time, trouble, and expense which this novel enterprise has occasioned. In cottages at Barnet, Thatcham, Woburn, Apsley Guise, and Chobham, 159 poor and sickly children have been distributed.

A Ragged School Union Convalescent Home.

A strong need is felt for such a beneficent agency. A Society so wide-spreading as the Ragged School Union could always find a sufficient number of underfed and ailing children to send by a system of relays throughout the year. And not only children, but there is a need also of providing an outing for elder boys and girls. It frequently happens that a workgirl who attends the school has some invalid parent, with whom she has to share her scanty means, and attention to whom in hours of leisure necessitates confinement to the house and to the close air of a sick-room, by which a low state of health is brought about; and such instances are not rare. A Convalescent Home would afford an opportunity of dealing with such cases.

It will thus be seen that this question of an outing is one to which the present day is quite alive. The *Times* leader from which we have already quoted says, "The system of sending poor children and weakly mothers for a short time into the country has been tried on a more extensive scale in the United States than in England, and there it has met with every kind of success." It is especially the duty of such an institution as the Ragged School Union to regard an undertaking of this sort as one of its varied works of beneficence.

There are many noble hearts with whom the name of Shaftesbury acts as a talisman; to such we would appeal for help towards the attainment of so desirable an object. For the judicious management of such an institution a local committee of ladies could be formed to visit, who would be sure to multiply the pleasure of the convalescents in a way that only their loving ingenuity could devise. One institution well known to the public has received a gift of two cottages, one for children and one for mothers, and a good surrounding of land for kitchen and flower garden. This was the gift of a lady; we need not point the moral.

An Interesting Incident.

Besides the larger sums that have been sent direct to Lord Shaftesbury, there have been smaller sums, one of which, a postal order for ten shillings, was accompanied by the following letter:—

"August 29th, 1884.

"My Lord,—Will you kindly accept the enclosed from a few servants? It may help to send some little suffering one to the seaside for a change. It is an answer to an appeal from you in the *Christian* some time ago, but we were not able to send it sooner. May God bless you, and spare you many years to be a friend to the poor."

His lordship observes that the writer gives no name, and goes on to say, "How really touching! It is a few servants who desire to remain unknown."

The Teachers' Rest at High Beech.

Advantage has been taken by many "weary workers" of the rest and recreation provided in this charming spot by the Ragged School Union Committee.

Many letters of thanks have been received expressive of the benefits to mind and body received by a week's stay in this beautiful retreat.

AN ADDRESS TO YOUNG MEN.

Delivered at Chequer Alley by the Vice-President, R. R. GLOVER, Esq.

"My son, give me thine heart."—Proverbs xxiii. 26 (1st clause).

WHAT a wonderful book is the Bible! How full of beauty and wisdom, of knowledge and understanding of history and philosophy!

Its stories fascinate childhood. Its records of great men inspire youth. Its counsels guide men and women in the full swing and responsibility of life. Its consolations comfort and sustain old age when the evil days have come and outward comforts are declining.

Let us cull a few of the flowers from it, confining ourselves to the book from which our text is taken:

> "*My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*
>
> "*So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*
>
> "*Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*
>
> "*If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*
>
> "*Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.*
>
> "*For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*
>
> "*He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*"—Proverbs ii. 1—7.
>
> "*Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding:*
>
> "*For the merchandise of it is better that the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*
>
> "*She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.*
>
> "*Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.*
>
> "*Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.*
>
> "*She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.*"—Proverbs iii. 13—18.

"*Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

"*Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.*

"*She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.*"—Proverbs iv. 7—9.

Who wrote the Book of Proverbs? That is a question not easily answered. The book, as we know it, is composed of several parts, differing much from each other, and the whole of it is not Solomon's. He is, however, *chiefly* responsible for it, either as author or compiler, hence the book is commonly called "The Proverbs of Solomon." And who was Solomon? He was a king's son. Like our Prince of Wales. A child of *privilege*, and *wealth*, and *luxury*. But he was much more than this. Not only had he wealth and all that it could buy in the shape of houses and land, of chariots and horsemen, of men servants and women servants, but he was a man of education and culture. There were no Board Schools in those days for the poor. But the king's sons were educated, and in Solomon's case we are particularly told the branch of knowledge to which he was most partial. It happened to be botany, or the science of flowers, and so accomplished was he in this branch of knowledge that it was said of him that he knew all about it from "the cedar that grew on Lebanon to the hyssop that springs upon the wall." But can such a life have lessons in it for us in the nineteenth century, two to three thousand years after? For us living in London, not in Jerusalem—living in comparative poverty, and not in wealth and luxury? Yes; a thousand times Yes. The life and experience of Solomon is full of lessons for us. WHY? Because he was a *man* with a human heart, which might be fed or might be starved, which might be rich or might be poor. You think rich folks and kings cannot be poor or unhappy or dissatisfied. That is quite a mistake. He was a man, and we are men. He had an immortal soul which nothing but God could fill. He had a *heart* which he had not given to God; and wherever this is the case there is no happiness for rich or poor. Three thousand years ago, or now, or three thousand years hence; absolutely no happiness, no safety, no hope in this world or that which is to come. So you see why we take our texts from the old books, and how it is that Solomon's life has lessons for us. Now, without taking up more of our time in introductory matter, let us look more closely at the text. "*My son*, give *Me* thine heart."

I shall consider this under three heads (three B's), to impress it more on your minds and memories; and they are as follows, viz.:

1. THE BEGGAR.
2. THE BOY.
3. THE BOON.

1. *The Beggar.* It may seem strange to you, my dear young friends, but the Beggar in this case is *Almighty God.* He reveals Himself under many forms in the Scripture. He is the "shadow of a great rock in a weary land." He is the "dwelling-place" of His people in all generations. He is "the Husbandman" in the vineyard, and here he is a suppliant, a beggar, asking a boon from a boy.

"*Behold I stand at the door and knock.*" Was there ever a more wonderful or a more beautiful picture? The Almighty God begging of a young man for a boon; stooping to ask a gift. Will you give it *me?* You can withhold it if you will, but I would be *obliged,* and *thankful,* and *satisfied,* if you would give it me. Just think of it, my young friends; the Beggar, who comes to you with this request, is Almighty God, the Lord of lords, the King of kings, the *Blessed* and *only Potentate.*

Do you ever think of God?

In the stillness of the night, when sleep has forsaken your pillow, do you not ask yourselves questions about the Great God that made you? Or walking home some clear night, when the stars are shining calmly and peacefully above you, do you not wonder who made them? Do you know that each little twinkler is a world like this world which we inhabit, with its teeming millions, its mountains and oceans, its rivers and forests, its summers and winters, its seed times and harvests? And do you know that, although you can see many more stars than you can count, there are millions more revealed by the telescope, scattered thick as dust, and that all of them are worlds, and the Almighty Being who made them all stands at your door, a Beggar, a suppliant, saying as it were, Your friendship would *enrich* Me, its withholding *impoverishes* Me? Do you ever think in this way about God? It is the true way. It is what the text teaches. "My *son,* give Me thine heart." I beseech you give it Me. It will make us both the richer. I will be richer, and you will be richer. You shall dwell under the shadow of My wings, in the Pavilion of My Presence, enfolded in My everlasting arms. I will preserve you from the dangers of life. I will be comfort and warmth to you in wintry days, and in the brightest days of summer I will add a beauty and a glory which shall enhance even these a thousandfold. I will put into your life something sweeter than the fragrance of flowers, more brilliant than

summer sunsets, more radiant and balmy than the loveliest air you ever breathed.

2. In the second place let us look at the "*Boy*" from whom the favour is asked. A Boy! Some people think very little of boys or young men. They think of them as impertinent, rude, presumptuous, rough young men, who ought to be kept in their place, and to whom no liberty or licence of any kind should be given. It is not so that God thinks of boys. He has patience to speak with them. He can stand at the door and *knock*, and even *wait*. Man's pride would not admit of his doing so; but God is not proud. He who bids the sun to rise and keeps the planets in their courses, asks you for your heart, waits for it, yearns for it. He knows—

(*a*) Your temptations, arising out of the evil that is in you and outside of you in the world, and that surrounds you with pitfalls at every step. He knows more of these dangers than you know, more of their origin, of their end; and therefore He *pities* and *waits* to be gracious. He supplicates, He entreats. Can you refuse such entreaty?

(*b*) He knows your capacity. If only you could be put in the right way, and kept in it, He knows that your course would be like that of the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. He looks on a boy as a gardener looks on a seed or a germ—not on what it is, but on what it might be. He looks ahead to the days of ripe fruit, to the days of developed character, of acquired reputation, and knowing how easily these may be blighted, He is *patient*, He *waits*. His head is filled with dew, and His locks are wet with the drops of the night. But still *He waits, He begs, He supplicates*. Can you resist Him? The human heart is hard. I can understand it resisting threatening and punishment. But when God asks for the heart, the affections, and *waits* for these, *waits* like a beggar for them at a rich man's gate, can you resist Him? My young friends, what are you made of, what are you thinking about? What is the end to be?

3. Shortly let us consider the Boon which the Beggar asks from the Boy.

Thine Heart. Not literally, but figuratively. The ancients had an idea that the affections resided in some of the organs, especially in the heart, though in some instances it was the liver, and in others the bowels. They all mean the same thing—viz., the Heart's Affection. The love of man to God. Take My law as your supreme rule of conduct. Remember every day and hour that I am witness of your actions and of your *motives*.

Give Me thine heart. Whoever and whatever claims it, give it to Me. It is dangerous to give it to any one but Me.

Beauty will claim it, but beauty will deceive you. Beauty will decay and vanish and die.

Wealth will claim it, but wealth will never satisfy it. Money will harden your heart; it will make it harder than the nether millstone or the granite rock. It will kill its sensibilities, and dull its finest sympathies.

Money will change you from an angel to a demon. It will change the very lines of your face. It will erase the image of God, and write instead the name of *self*.

And self-indulgence will claim your heart. In many forms it will challenge you. The wine when it is red, and other intoxicants which tempt your taste, which lift you first into a false paradise and then plunge you into a real hell,—these will claim your heart; but give it not to them. Their end is death. Give not your heart to them, but to *Me*. I only know it. I made it. I made it for *Myself*. Its hunger will not be satisfied, its thirst will not be slaked, by any being or thing but *Myself*.

And the world in a hundred forms will claim your heart. Pre-eminence over, or distinction among, your fellows, called among the rich *ambition*, but by no means confined to them, will claim your *heart*. By day and night it will appeal to you; and many there be that listen to its siren voice. But God says, Give *Me* thine heart; give it not to the world.

"My *son*, give *Me* thine heart."

SCHOLARS' PRIZES, CHRISTMAS, 1884.

The Committee of the Ragged School Union, being desirous to encourage good conduct and long-continued service in all who have passed through the Schools of the Union, have again decided on giving Prizes to young persons who have kept their situations with good character for twelve months or upwards, and coming within the following conditions, viz.:—

1. They must be over twelve and under eighteen years of age.

2. They must have attended the Ragged School or Mission giving the recommendation at least six months *previously* to having entered the first situation held by them.

3. Having kept any one situation for twelve months, ending in 1883, they are allowed to make one change, but must not be out of place for more than two weeks; in this case they are eligible for the Prize, provided they are in the second place on December 31st,

1883. Certificates of character will be required from both of these situations.

4. If they have not before received a Prize, they will now be entitled to seven shillings and sixpence, as well as a Card, provided the committee of the school recommending pay two shillings and sixpence of it.

5. Those who have received a money prize previously, and are again recommended, will be entitled to an Illuminated Certificate, and a Prize Book.

6. They must have been in regular attendance at the Ragged or other Sunday School for the *current* year. This rule does not apply to domestic servants.

7. Shoeblacks, occasional labourers, scholars partially employed, or those engaged by their relatives, will not be eligible for the Prizes.

8. Certificates must be furnished by the employers and school authorities, to show that these conditions have been complied with, and that good conduct has been continued to December 31st, 1884.

9. The candidate will lose the benefit of the Prize if the application be not fully and accurately filled up, duly signed, and returned to the office, Exeter Hall, on or before January 28, 1885.

The Prizes may be given in books, clothes, or otherwise, as the committee of the school may determine.

Exeter Hall, December, 1884. JOHN KIRK, *Secretary*.

MAGIC LANTERNS AND FRENCH HAND-ORGAN.

THE winter session of 1884 is now at hand; we therefore beg to remind the superintendents and workers of the Missions, when they draw up their plans for winter amusements, that the Ragged School Union lanterns will again be available, subject to the undermentioned conditions.

"At least a fortnight's previous notice must be given, and in making the application please give size of room and other particulars. The lanterns can be used singly or conjointly for dissolving views, with oil or lime and gas. If the limelight is required, the gas must be provided by the school; if used with oil-light, the best paraffin oil (only) to be used, and great care with the lanterns is necessary at all times. The oil-chambers must be emptied after use. The apparatus must be called for on the day arranged, and returned to the office the following morning; the expense of porterage to and fro being wholly defrayed by the school using the lantern. All breakages and losses must be made good. The collection of slides is miscellaneous, and

includes—'The Two Apprentices' (Hogarth), 'Dick Whittington,' 'Mother Hubbard,' 'Tale of the Five Pigs,' 'John Gilpin,' natural history, nursery tales, chromatropes, moveable slides, hymns, &c. If necessary, a complete set of slides for a lecture or entertainment can be borrowed free of charge, on presenting a written order from the office."

It should be understood that the office cannot hold itself ready to meet any request further than as regards the *loan of the apparatus*. If the services of a lecturer or operator should be required the utmost will be done to oblige, but notice must be given on making the application to Mr. Kirk at the office, Exeter Hall, W.C.

WINTER WORK.

THE following circular has been widely issued:—

"Ragged School Union, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
"August 23rd, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—The time for the winter session is rapidly approaching. It is hoped that evening work, comprising Night Schools, Youths' Institutes, and other work of a spiritual and social character, will be commenced or resumed. I shall be glad when necessary to confer with you, or with your committee, on any matters affecting the school work.

"A line saying what is proposed to be undertaken will greatly oblige. "I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

"RICHARD J. CURTIS, *Organising Secretary*."

PRAY DON'T FORGET OUR RAGGED ONES.

THE movement for supplying shoes and articles of clothing, and free or cheap dinners in winter time, has been extended, so as to include many thousands of Board School children in town and country.

The claims upon the benevolent being so multiplied as to make our wants a matter of unusual anxiety, we present with emphasised importunity our annual appeal for the naked and hungry ones connected with our various Ragged Schools, in the hope that we may find gifts in money or kind sent us not only by our old friends, but also by our new friends—by those who are coming forward to fill up the places of some who have gone hence and have heard the Master's words, "I was naked and ye clothed me," &c.

Please send direct to the Secretary, at the office, Exeter Hall, London.

P

REAPING.

"Those who go forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them."

UNDENOMINATIONAL RAGGED SCHOOL MISSION, PONTYMOILE, NEAR PONTYPOOL.

Mr. T. M. Wintle, the hon. superintendent, writes as follows:—

"The Lord has been doing glorious work in our Ragged School these last two months. It may be well to state that the latter part of last year and the commencement of this was a severe trial of our faith. It was sowing, sowing, weeping, weeping, and no fruit to be seen; indeed it seemed that the result of our labours was to harden the hearts of the children and lads, especially those from fourteen to sixteen years of age; so much so that one teacher who has about twenty of the roughest boys of the above ages in his class came to me in great grief, saying, 'It is no use, sir, I must give it up; those boys are determined to upset the school.' This drove us closer to Him who is able to subdue all things unto Himself. I spoke to the boys, and remonstrated with them respecting their disgraceful behaviour and cruel treatment of their teacher. This brought tears to the eyes of several, and, praise be to God, at the Evangelistic Meeting in the evening one of them, sixteen years of age, a convicted thief, and who has been flogged, cried to God for mercy. Then another and another. The blessed revival has continued till the number has now reached to forty of our scholars who have sought, and I have every reason to believe have found, pardon and peace through faith in the crucified Redeemer. Not unto us, not unto us, O Lord, but unto Thy name be all the glory. I pray God that each lad may be used to bring others to the Saviour."

This letter from a former shoeblack boy in the brigade, John Street, Paddington, under the superintendence of Mr. Scarfe, will be read with interest:—

"Bourbon Street, Bundaberb, Queensland,
"Australia, Oct. 4, 1883.

"DEAR SIR AND KIND FRIEND,—Before I proceed with my letter I must apologise for my seeming negligence in not having written to you before, but I have been very, very busy since I came into this colony, working morning, noon, and night, so that I have had very little chance to write to friends in the old country. It gives me great pleasure to think that I can at last sit down and address these few lines to you. It is not my intention to write you a long letter, as I have detailed most events of any interest in a journal which I have sent to Miss C. Cook, Oxford, and which I have asked her to forward to you. I think you will be pleased to know that I made acquaintance with the Rev. — Morriss, vicar of this town, Bundaberb. I find him very friendly; in fact he is a great friend to all new comers, and takes a great interest in their welfare. I have joined the church

choir here. I still sing tenor. Mr. Geo. Gray, my friend spoken of in my journal, is also in the choir, and sings bass. The bishop visits us next Sunday, so that we have been pleasantly engaged practising hymns and anthems for the celebrated occasion. I hope to be able in my next letter to give you a description of this town, and to send you a set of fine views of the different places of interest here to hang up in your schoolroom. I expect you have a great many new boys in the brigade by this time. I have great pleasure to be able to send you the five shillings you so kindly lent me, and again permit me to thank you for your kindness. Will you kindly remember me to Mrs. and Miss Scarfe, also to the inspector, and all the boys, especially Sage, Farley, and several other names I cannot here mention? Will you please give my respects to Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Birch? I sincerely hope you are all enjoying the best of health. If you think the journal which I have sent will be of interest to the boys, will you do me the favour of reading it to them? I hope you will get it so that you can read it to the boys at Christmas. I think this will be a good time, as by then I shall have been away just a year. I hope, dear sir, you will write me a few lines to let me know how you all are at John Street. If any of the old boys will write me a letter I shall be glad to answer them, and tell them all I possibly can about Queensland.

"And now, dear sir, having said all I think will be of interest to you,

"I beg to remain, yours very faithfully,

"SYDNEY E. HILL."

In Memoriam.

MR. T. A. BLEST.

THE subject of this brief notice had for many years the oversight of the household arrangements of the firm of Messrs. Morley and Co., 18, Wood Street. He was also the senior deacon of Falcon Square Chapel, a member of the committee of the Aldersgate Y. M. C. A., and secretary of the Juvenile and Adult Mission, Brackley Street, Golden Lane. He died on Friday, the 12th September, after suffering most patiently borne, and to the inexpressible grief of all who knew him.

The large number of young men from the business, and a crowd of poor people from the Mission, with a large circle of bereaved friends who gathered about the open grave on the following Monday, testified by their tokens of sorrow how deeply they loved him.

A funeral discourse of great power was preached at Falcon Square Chapel on Sunday, September 21, by the Rev. Paxton Hood, from the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Notices of Books.

CASSELL AND Co., Limited, Ludgate Hill.

Little Folks (Midsummer Volume). Price 3s. 6d. With illustrations on nearly every page.

This is a book rich in all that can minister to the innocent pleasure of children. Those who are in search of a gem of pure and instructive literature for the family will find one here. The contents of the book are very varied. The story of "Clara Linton's Friend" is full of compassion and practical sympathy. "Little Margaret's Kitchen" shows what a mother with tact can do. "Imaginary Dissolving Views" taxes the imagination and mental resources of reading children, and will lead many to explore the realms of history.

WILLIAMS AND NORGATE, 14, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

Recollections of John Pounds.

The story of this modern "Good Samaritan" is simply and touchingly told, and merits the widest circulation. A Christian has been quaintly described as a "little Jesus Christ." Now, one of the most touching scenes in the life of our Lord is that of His blessing little children, and the most expressive statement of the purpose of His life is that He came to seek and to save those that were lost. John Pounds, in his cobbler's shop, combines the scene and the object, for there were the children and there were the lost ones. A picture of John Pounds with his ragged pupils, seen by the noble Dr. Guthrie in an out-of-the-way inn, inspired him with the high resolve to emulate this hero of humble life. One way to multiply great examples is to circulate the story of their lives; this book should therefore be in all school and mission libraries.

COLLINS, SONS, AND Co., London and Glasgow.

Collins's School Series. Infant Primer. 1st and 2nd. 2d. each. *Third Infant Readers.* 1st and 2nd. 3d. each.

The infant primers, carefully graded with script exercises, are beautifully illustrated. The exercises are formed on Kindergarten principles. The script letters accompany the print, and the easy lessons in visible counting will prove very helpful to the infant mind. The Infant Readers are a continuation of the excellent series. The books were tried with some very young children, who were delighted at finding the steps so easy for their little legs.

The Improved Illustrated Reader. First Book. Limp, 6d.; full bound, 8d.

The editor says, "The object of the book for Standard I. is to provide an easy stepping-stone from the primary work of reading in the infant school to the necessary familiarity with the ordinary words of the English language," and well, we say, the task has been accomplished. The type is large and clear, the words easy, the sentences short, and the reading lessons such as meet the capacities of average childhood. While adding to the store of knowledge, the imagination and heart are continually appealed to. Sentences at the bottom of each lesson are in the script character, and there are whole pages of the same. This is an advantage. The illustrations are excellent. Those who would be glad of a book to aid them in moulding the plastic nature of a child, especially in the culture of the affections, should get this book. It will be found especially helpful for teaching to read, both in the school and the home.

MESSRS. NELSON AND SONS, Paternoster Row.

The Garden Swing and Other Pictures and Stories. Royal quarto, boards, large type and beautiful Oil Colour Pictures. Price 1s. 6d.

This is one of a series of new books for children. The stories are short and prettily illustrated. The subject matter is quite within the comprehension of young children, the poetry is very sweet, and the large oil-colour pictures cannot fail to delight.

HODDER AND STOUGHTON, 27, Paternoster Row.

The Bridge of History over the Gulf of Time: a Popular View of the Historical Evidence for the Truth of Christianity. Price 2s. 6d.

This book, by Thomas Cooper, who, from being a believer, became an honest doubter, but was at length restored and established in the faith, conclusively shows that the two theories which have been invented to account for the existence of Christianity—viz., the sun theory and the mythical theory—are "but as the baseless fabric of a vision." The mind of Thomas Cooper is of the most masculine order. The evidence which convinced him is given in simple language and in a very compact form. A book on such a subject, by such an author, needs nothing to recommend it.

Outline Sermons to Children. Price 6s.

Here are ninety-seven most useful outline discourses, prepared by ministers of eminence, such as Horatius and Andrew Bonar, Cairns, Dykes, Edmonds, Wilson, Bolton, Buell, Shore, &c. It is a difficult

task to talk to children so as to interest them, and difficult indeed to talk wisely to them on religious topics; but the feat has been accomplished here. These Outlines may be described as pleasant talk with a practical purpose.

MESSRS. NISBET AND CO., 21, Berners Street.

Hosannas of the Children, and other Short Sermons for Young People; or, A Chime of Bells from the Little Sanctuary. By J. Macduff, D.D.

These sermons to children are fifty-two in number, and are interspersed with poetry. The spirit that pervades them is pure and sweet; the topics are pertinent. Some things are in advance of a child's intelligence, but the feeling that animates them is eminently such as would move the heart aright. This volume may be called a guide to the pious and loving teacher, indicating subjects and mode of treatment. A book of this kind must not be slavishly adhered to; the sermonette should be mastered and then broken up or diluted as the needs and capacities of the child or class may require.

These Fifty Years. A Jubilee Volume of the London City Mission. By J. W. Weylland.

This romance of reality dispels the notion that records of Christian effort are necessarily dull. A sympathetic subject, a complete grasp of all its phases, and a facile pen, have enabled Mr. Weylland to produce a volume of unusual value and interest. We trust the result of its issue will be a larger appreciation of the invaluable services of the City Mission.

BEMROSE AND SONS, 23, Old Bailey.

George Birkbeck, the Pioneer of Popular Education: a Memoir and a Review. By John George Godard.

Good it is the rising generation should know of the difficulties and triumphs of the early promoters of popular education. This carefully written and interesting book supplies this information, and forms also a fitting memorial of the acquirement of handsome new buildings for the Birkbeck Institution.

S. W. PARTRIDGE AND CO., 9, Paternoster Row.

T. B. Smithies, Editor of the "British Workman." A Memoir. By G. Stringer Rowe. Price 1s. 6d.

Mr. Smithies was born at York in 1817, and died at Wood Green on July 20th, 1882. The writer says that he was not distinguished by

illustrious pedigree, but he had what the poet Cowper, in his exquisite lines on his mother's picture, appraises far higher—namely, a pious and wise mother, from whom he inherited mental and moral attributes of no common order, and to whom he was largely indebted for that formative influence which resulted in a life consecrated to the service of God in the welfare of mankind. At the age of sixteen he became a clerk in an insurance office, and in his leisure hours gave his time to Sunday-school and temperance work. He was a model teacher; he followed his scholars to their homes, took great interest in refractory boys, and by his loving tact saved many from expulsion who afterwards became eminent Christians. His great belief in the value of good pictures led him to start those beautifully illustrated periodicals, the *Band of Hope Review*, the *British Workman*, the *Children's Friend*, the *Infant's Magazine*, &c., &c. In his lamented removal the cause of Ragged Schools and Missions lost a valued benefactor. He was ever ready to help the schools by loving personal service and generous gifts of papers. We heartily commend this instructive memoir.

Notices of Meetings.

KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOLS.

At the Flower Services, July 20, the show of flowers was larger than ever. The centre of attraction was undoubtedly the platform, at the east end of the room, on which some hundreds of multi-coloured flowers, in pots and large bouquets, had been arranged so as to form a solid bank. The pulpit was placed in the middle, and was surmounted by an arch covered with ivy and virginia creeper, and further decorated with bunches of cherries, tomatoes, lemons, &c. Similar arches adorned the various doorways, and from the roof were suspended large wire baskets, containing ferns, ivy, and creeping plants; while the very gas brackets were surrounded with flowers of various hues. As usual there were three services—that in the morning being attended by the parents of the children who were members of the schools, at which Messrs. Burchill and Walker officiated; that in the afternoon by the children under fifteen years of age, who were addressed by Mr. Montague; and the evening service, which was attended by the senior scholars, teachers, and visitors. Prayers were delivered by Dr. James Flack, and appropriate portions of Scripture were read by Mr. R. J. Curtis, of the Ragged School Union, and hymns having special reference to the occasion were sung at intervals by the congregation. An impressive but homely address was subsequently delivered by Mr. George Cauldwell, of the Sunday School Union. At the conclusion of the

service Mr. Montague announced that if any of those present had sick friends he would gladly give them a bunch of flowers to take home, in addition to what they had received when they came in. He said that out of the abundance he had received, over 1,200 bunches of flowers had been distributed, and trusted that many homes would be made brighter and happier by their influence. Among the patrons of the Flower Service were Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Beaufort, the Duchess of Manchester, the Duchess of Northumberland, the Duchess of Richmond, the Duchess of Wellington, the Marchioness of Ailesbury, the Marchioness of Bristol, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley, the Marchioness of Downshire, the Marchioness of Ely, the Marchioness of Headfort, the Countess of Ailsea, the Countess of Aberdeen, the Countess of Castlestuart, the Countess of Charlemont, the Countess of Cork, the Countess of Darnley, the Countess of Dudley, the Countess of Effingham, the Countess of Fitzhardinge, the Countess of Fitzwilliam, the Countess of Harwood, the Countess of Kilmorey, the Countess of Ilchester, the Countess of Poltimore, the Countess of Rosslyn, the Countess of Scarbrough, the Countess of Suffolk, the Countess of Warncliff, Viscountesses Bridport, Hill, and Hood, Lady Burdett, Lady Broke Middleton.

KING EDWARD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS AT OAK LODGE, HIGHGATE.

The girls of the King Edward Industrial Schools paid their annual visit to Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Williams on Wednesday, July 23. The girls, who arrived at about ten o'clock, were received by Mr. and Mrs. Williams with their usual hospitality, and very soon the beautiful grounds were dotted over with groups of girls playing various games, the means and appliances for which they found conveniently and abundantly at hand. After dinner, the grounds were opened to invited visitors, the majority of whom, we venture to say, were never presented with a more interesting or more touching sight. Shortly after six o'clock the girls and visitors were gathered together in a large marquee. The veteran Christian philanthropist, the Earl of Shaftesbury, occupied the chair. The visitors included many members of the Hornsey Local and School Boards and other influential residents of Highgate. The girls were massed in divisions in front of the noble chairman. The young people are evidently well looked after, and, dressed in neat and serviceable garments, looked as well-grown and healthy a body of girls as it would be possible to find in England. Mr. John Lloyd, who appeared to have a personal knowledge of the peculiarities and good qualities of every girl in the school, read a report which was especially satisfactory. He gave a variety of statistics, all of which went to prove that the training at these schools is very effective. Out of the 130 girls who passed out of the institution during the year, there were only six about whom the authorities of the school felt doubtful. The year before there were fifteen such doubtful cases, so that a marked improvement even in this small percentage is still going on. The reports of the Government In-

spectors, read by Mr. Lloyd, highly praised the system of education as well as the mode in which the wants of the girls are provided for. Four classes of prize-takers were then presented to his lordship. The first were the girls who had stayed in their first situations one year after leaving the institution. Thirty were eligible for the prize, but only four were present, and each of these received a half-sovereign, one being an assistant at one of the Homes, who was steadily working her way upward. The second class comprised medal-holders who came up to receive what was described as "medal money." This was explained to the Chairman as being a gratuity at the rate of a half-crown for each year of holding the medals. The position was one of some dignity among the girls, and the holders were, among other things, expected to assist in restraining wrong-doing in the schools and to help and protect new-comers. The first medallist had held the position for four years, and she received her ten shillings amid the loud applause of the girls. After six medallists had received the medal money, eleven new ones were invested with the dignity. The specialities in which the girls had distinguished themselves were announced; for instance, one had the highest number of marks in the Home, one had a passion for scrubbing, another was a model housemaid, another had distinguished herself in the laundry, another was a famous knitter — an announcement that was received with loud applause. One was industrious in school, one had a speciality for cleaning fire-irons, and the others were all distinguished in several ways. The Earl placed these medals, which were suspended on blue ribbons, around the necks of the recipients. After a number of handsome volumes had been distributed to girls for various reasons, a long list of names of the winners of money prizes, ranging from five shillings to a half-crown each, was read, and there were many below this amount which were not read, and the girls were referred to the list for information. Mr. Williams, after acknowledging his high appreciation of the valuable services of Miss Burke, of Highgate, in connection with Bible reading, a deputation, comprising the matrons, teachers, and some pupils, brought up a present of knitted garments for the Earl of Shaftesbury, who expressed his delight at the splendid present, and said that he should wear them with a great deal of appreciation and comfort. A number of speeches followed. The Rev. R. C. Billing spoke for the children, and proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Williams for their constant kindness to them. This was carried with great enthusiasm, to which Mr. Williams replied. Thanks were then passed to the Earl and to Mr. John Lloyd. Among the speakers were Mr. Henry Spicer and Mr. John Glover.

LATYMER ROAD MISSION.

The recent Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition was very successful. There were a few excellent exhibits, displaying not only great industry, but also ingenuity and talent of no ordinary kind. In connection with the exhibition there was a sale of children's clothes at

low prices, conducted by the Misses Gladstone, who later on in the evening gave the prizes to the successful competitors. The proceedings were enlivened by some pianoforte recitals, and during the whole of the evening the rooms were crowded. It having been announced that worn clothing of all kinds would be sold for very little money, mothers' were delighted in getting several suits of clothes for their little ones at sixpence, while men were gladdened by a good coat for a shilling, and other articles at equally low prices, and it was found at this experimental sale of old clothes that charging a few pence was altogether more satisfactory than giving them.

MARIGOLD PLACE.

A very unpretentious but genuine Flower Show was held on July 15. The chair was taken by the Hon. H. A. Lawrence. There were over 200 exhibits and 45 prize-takers. Parents and children attended largely. The children, under the guidance of Miss Challis, sang some suitable pieces, and several ladies and gentlemen contributed to the pleasure of the evening by singing in a very superior manner some very acceptable songs. Short speeches were made by the chairman, Revs. G. J. Davies and J. Farran, Messrs. J. Menzies, J. Miller, and R. J. Curtis.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

At Chequer Alley, Bunhill Row, the usual distribution of prizes took place on Wednesday evening, July 23. A large company, comprising teachers and parents, were present to witness the interesting proceedings. Samuel Lord, Esq., presided. The prizes for Sunday School attendance were given by the chairman to fifty-three children. For Night School attendance the prizes were given by J. Ness, Esq., to forty boys and eleven girls. To servants, numbering eleven, who had kept their situations for one or more years, the prizes were given by Mr. R. J. Curtis, the organising secretary of the Ragged School Union. To exhibitors, some 126 in all, at the Industrial Exhibition and Flower Show the prizes were given by S. Lord, Esq., and for favourably passing a severe Scripture examination prizes were also given to four children. The prizes consisted of money, certificates, books, cricket-bats, writing-desks, work-boxes, &c., &c. We must not omit to mention the services rendered on the occasion by Mr. M. Moore, who maintained order, said a kind word or two, and was, as he always is, most helpful to the success of the proceedings.

GOLDIE STREET MISSION, S.E.

A Flower Show was held in the Mission Rooms on Tuesday, August 5. About 125 plants, which had been grown by the scholars, were sent for exhibition; there were also on show objects of interest and curiosity, scientific instruments and appliances, and pictures kindly lent by friends for the occasion. Several hundreds of persons visited the show, the rooms at times being inconveniently crowded. Rev. Henry E. Arkell, of Marlborough Chapel, Old Kent Road, with which the Mission is connected, distributed the prizes to the successful competitors for plants and bouquets arranged by the scholars. The school is but a small one, and this being the first

flower show held was somewhat in the nature of an experiment. Its success, however, will no doubt encourage the teachers to repeat the exhibiton next year. Mr. Goff, nurseryman, 172, Old Kent Road, who supplied most of the plants in the spring, acted as judge.

MANSFIELD STREET, BOROUGH ROAD. PRESENTATION.

The teachers of the above Sunday-evening Ragged School, at their recent quarterly meeting, took the opportunity of expressing their best wishes to their superintendent, Mr. Coombes, on his marriage with one of their fellow-workers. Their good wishes took the tangible form of a very handsome timepiece and bronze ornaments.

Mr. W. J. Evans, in presenting the same in the name of the teachers, referred to the continued prosperity of the school, which is largely indebted to the able superintendence of Mr. Coombes. He hoped that both Mrs. and Mr. Coombes might be spared for many years, and that the school might continue to reap advantages from their valuable labours.

HOMERTON RAGGED SCHOOL AND GOSPEL MISSION, JOHN STREET AND COLLEGE LANE, HOMERTON.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the above institution was held at the Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney, a short time since. Owing to the indisposition of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was to have presided, the chair was occupied by Josiah Goodman, Esq.

Letters were read from Sir Robert Carden, Captain Verney, R.N., and other gentlemen, all expressing their regret at not being able to be present.

The report having been read by the secretary, the meeting was addressed by the chairman, who called upon George Holland, Esq., to propose the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, while thankfully acknowledging the good that has resulted from the passing of the Education Act, is of opinion that in the social, moral, and religious interests of large numbers of our city children, it is still of the utmost importance that Ragged Schools should be maintained."

Which was supported by Mr. J. Fyfe Stewart.

Mr. Goodman then proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, having heard the report of the work done during the past year by the Homerton Ragged School and Gospel Mission, approves the same, and commends it to the liberal support of a Christian public."

Which was seconded by the Rev. Samuel M'Call.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Jos. W. Morgan, superintendent of the Sunday Evening School, and by Mr. J. L. Gordon, the superintendent of the Sunday Afternoon School. Mr. R. J. Curtis (Ragged School Union) attended at the instance of the Earl of Shaftesbury, in order to convey to the meeting his lordship's profound regret at his enforced absence from the meeting.

NELSON STREET.—RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHERS AT NEASDEN.

A large party of Christian workers connected with the Nelson Street Ragged School Mission, Camberwell, on Monday, August 25th, paid a visit by invitation to Dollis Hall, Neasden, a suburban house of the

Earl of Aberdeen. The Earl and Countess, being in Scotland, were not able personally to entertain their guests. The afternoon was spent in various pastimes. Tea was served under the trees, and the meal was followed by genial speech-making. Mr. John Kirk, secretary of the Ragged School Union, who conducted the party, in the course of a few words dwelt upon the importance of Ragged School and Mission work, and expressed to Mr. Simpson the thanks of the party to Lord Aberdeen for his kindness. Mr. W. S. Andrews, one of the superintendents of the Mission, and Mr. J. M. Weylland, jubilee secretary of the London City Mission, also gave addresses; and the latter presented a book to Mr. Simpson as a token of the company's appreciation of the manner in which he had entertained them.

It was mentioned that the Mission is in want of a better building than it at present possesses. Twice the amount of the present work, which is unsectarian within evangelical limits, could be done, it is said, if the accommodation were more extensive. The committee possesses the site freehold, but £1,000 is wanted for the erection of suitable premises.

ERNEST STREET, MILE END.

On Thursday, September 11, a Flower Show was held in the school-room. The flowers, seventy in number, which were of the children's own rearing, consisted of geraniums, fuchsias, dahlias, ferns (all in great variety); also pots of stonecrop and creeping-jennys, together with a good display of cut flowers. Great interest was shown by the friends of the school, the people in the immediate neighbourhood, and by the children, in this simple and unpretending show. Some entertainment was also given in the shape of singing and attractive speeches. The chair was taken by W. Rhodes, Esq., and prizes, twenty-one in number, were given to the successful competitors, and a floral text card to every exhibitor.

CANAL ROAD, KING'S CROSS.

The workers in connection with this school spent a pleasant afternoon and evening on Saturday, 13th September, at Edmonton, in the grounds of Mr. Earee, the well-known refreshment contractor of Hackney Road. The friends, who came under the conduct of Messrs. Wright and Sheppard, spent a most enjoyable time, games of croquet and lawn tennis proving most excellent pastime. After tea some appropriate remarks were made by Mr. J. W. Graham, the treasurer of the school, by Mr. Wright, the superintendent, and by Messrs. Kirk and Curtis, of the Ragged School Union. Some more amusement, followed by some slight refreshment, brought the happy season to a termination. A vote of thanks was heartily accorded to the host and hostess for their kindness.

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RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

The following sums have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of June, 1884, to the 19th of September, 1884, inclusive:—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Alexander, Mrs. C.	2	2	0
Alexander, Mrs. Hy.	5	0	0
Aldridge, H. C., Esq.	1	1	0
A. B. C.	0	1	0
Anonymous	1	1	0
Blantyre, Lord	21	0	0
Bailey, Miss M.	1	1	0
Bakewell, John, Esq.	1	0	0
Ballard, Major J. F.	0	10	0
Barbour, Wm., Esq.	0	10	0
Baron, Miss	5	0	0
Beddoes, Mrs. C. C.	1	1	0
Benson, Miss	0	2	6
Brodie, J., Esq.	0	2	6
Brooke, Capt. E. E. B.	0	2	6
Bruce, Miss	1	0	0
Bush, W. J., Esq., per Geo. Hoon, Esq.	1	1	0
Buttanshaw, M.N., Esq.	10	10	0
Bazzglo, Miss L.	0	2	6
Cremorne, Dow. Lady	10	0	0
Cotgreave, Miss	1	0	0
Craddan, W. D., Esq.	5	0	0
Cunliffe, John, Esq.	5	0	0
Daniell, Miss	0	5	0
Davies, Rev. Thos.	1	1	0
Dixon, Miss M. A.	0	2	0
Dods, Mrs. E.	0	11	6
Drury, Mrs. C. M.	2	0	0
Fergusson, J. H., Esq.	1	0	0
Foster, R., Esq.	0	5	0
Fothergill, Miss	2	0	0
Fricker, Chas., Esq.	0	2	6
From a Servant, Bath	0	1	0
Acworth, Mrs.	1	1	0
A Few Servants	0	10	0
A Friend, per Miss Ryder	0	10	0
A Poor Man	0	2	0
A Widow's Mite	0	1	0
Anonymous	1	7	9
Blantyre, Lord	5	0	0
Biggs, R., Esq.	1	0	0
Billingham, Mrs. (coll.)	1	6	6
Binstead, C. H., Esq.	5	0	0
Bosley, Chas., Esq.	1	0	0
Brass, Rev. H., per E. F. Gedge, Esq.	3	0	0
Brewer's Court, per Mr. G. Andrews	3	0	0
Brown, Miss	1	0	0
Brown, Mrs. G.	5	0	0
Chance, Geo., Esq.	1	0	0
Churchill, Miss	1	0	0
Churchill, Miss E. A.	1	0	0
Chute, Miss Octavia C.	0	10	0
Clements, Mrs.	0	12	6
Collected by Domestic Servants of Kippington Vicarage, per Mrs. G. E. Tate	1	10	0
Collection at St. Matthew's, Redhill, Sunday Anniversary Children's Service	5	12	9
Cooper, Rev. E. C.			
Croft, Wm., Esq.	0	10	0
Crosbie, Miss	1	0	0
Garrett, Rev. Thos.	0	10	0
Gent, J. G., Esq.	2	2	0
Gibbons, Miss Ann	0	10	0
Gilbertson, E., Esq.	2	0	0
Goff, Miss	0	2	6
Gordon, Mrs. P.	5	0	0
Green, Rev. A.	1	1	0
Green, John W., Esq.	1	0	0
Greene, Rev. Y. L.	3	0	0
Gresley, Thos., Esq.	1	1	0
Gripper, T., Esq.	3	3	0
Hardcastle, Mrs. E.	0	10	0
Hart, Mr. A. W. & Miss	0	5	0
Hawkins, Miss S.	1	0	0
Hector, John, Esq.	0	10	0
Holdship, J., Esq.	1	0	0
Howard, Rev. A. W., per Miss Judson	0	2	6
Hughes, W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Hulsh, Mrs.	1	0	0
Judson, Miss	0	1	0
Kelso, Alexr., Esq.	0	4	0
Knowles, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lamington, Lord	1	0	0
Lafone, Mrs.	1	0	0
Lawrence, Mrs. S.	0	10	0
Leicester Ragged School, per H. Lawrence, Esq.	0	10	6
Lewis, H. E., Esq.	1	1	0
Malcolm, W. E., Esq.	1	0	0
May, R. R., Esq.	0	5	0
McKay, Maj.-Gen. John	5	0	0
Miller, Rev. C.	0	5	0
Milligan, Mrs.	0	5	0
Montague, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Moore, Mr. Geo.	0	10	0
Morrieson, Colonel	5	0	0
Mulligan, S., Esq.	1	0	0
Newcome, Miss	1	0	0
Newman, J. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Parker, O. S., Esq., M.P.	3	3	0
Penrose, A. W., Esq.	5	0	0
Peters, Mrs.	1	0	0
Prisalk, Miss	0	5	0
Pritchard, Miss	1	1	0
Readers of the *Christian*, per Messrs. Morgan and Scott	5	0	0
Robertson, Mrs.	0	10	0
Robertson, Chas., Esq.	0	5	0
Rowlett, E. A., Esq.	1	0	0
Shakerley, Dowr. Lady	15	0	0
Sale, Miss S. E.	0	10	0
Salter, Mrs.	0	2	6
Simms, Jas., Esq.	1	1	0
Smith, Mrs.	0	2	0
Smyth, Mrs. A. M.	0	10	6
Snashall, Mrs. E.	1	1	0
Somes, Mrs.	5	0	0
Statham, Miss	1	1	0
Sturge, Geo., Esq., 1st Instalment under Deed of Trust, per Messrs. Bell & Co.	100	0	0
Walford, Mrs.	2	10	0
Wilson, S., Esq.	0	2	6

Excursion Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. C. P.	0	10	0
De Vear, Mrs.	0	2	6
Duncan, Jas., Esq., per E. F. Gedge, Esq.	1	1	0
E. E. D.	0	0	0
Field, Mr. & Mrs. Hy.	1	0	0
Gillespie, Miss	0	10	0
Goad, Messrs. F., & Son	0	5	0
Goodwyn, Mrs. Alfred	2	0	0
Hawkins, Miss S.	0	5	0
Heath, Mrs. C. J.	1	0	0
Heginbottom, Miss	0	2	6
Hicks, G. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Hill, Edward, Esq.	1	0	0
Holdship, J., Esq.	1	0	0
Hughes, G. Hillsborough, Esq.	0	5	0
Hughes, W. Hughes, Esq.	1	1	0
Jones, Mrs.	2	10	0
J. L.	0	2	6
Lambert, Mrs. J.	5	10	0
Montefiore, Sir Moses	15	0	0
Maynard, Mrs. & Miss	0	4	0
Moody, Miss S.	0	5	0
Morris, A. H., Esq.	0	10	0
Millard, Mr. W.	0	2	6
M. E.	2	0	0
Orton, J. S., Esq.	0	10	6
Plunkett, Dowager Lady	0	10	0
Plunkett, Hon. Frederick	0	10	0
Poulter, E. C., Esq.	2	2	0
Prince, Mrs.	2	0	0
Prior, Miss	1	10	0
Readers of *Christian Work*, per Morgan and Scott	4	0	0
Readers of *Word and Work*, per J. F. Shaw and Co.	3	9	0
Ricardo, Mrs. D.	0	10	0
Richardson, W., Esq.	0	2	6
Robinson, Dr.	0	5	0
Rouse, Mrs.	1	1	0
Rutter, Mrs.	1	0	0
Sale, Miss S. E.	0	10	0
Sandley, C., Esq.	20	0	0
Shepherd, Rev. R.	0	5	0
Sherson, Misses	3	0	0
Smith, J. D., Esq.	2	0	0
Smyth, Mrs. A. M.	0	2	6
Smith, Mrs. Graham, through Lord Shaftesbury	100	0	0
Sneyd, Miss	2	5	0
Sunbeam Fund, per Mr. W. R. Everett	0	10	0
Thankoffering of Children of Cowfold Sunday School, for their own treat	0	5	0
Threlfall, Chas., Esq.	2	2	0
Wall, Mrs.	2	0	0
Warburton, G., Esq.	1	2	6
Wildman, Mrs.	0	5	0
Wilkes, Jas., Esq., per Lord Shaftesbury	10	0	0
Wood, Miss	0	2	6

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Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

	£	s.	d.
Miss MacCallum	0	10	0

Kingsland.

	£	s.	d.
Dowr. Lady Shakerley	5	0	0

Lambeth.

	£	s.	d.
J. W. A.	0	10	0

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	£	s.	d.
Miss Churchill	1	0	0
Miss E. A. Churchill	1	0	0
Mrs. De Mesurier Winter	1	0	0
C. Montague, Esq.	0	10	0
Miss Newcome	1	0	0
Miss Prior	1	10	0
Miss Souter & Mrs. Lingham	1	0	0

Shaftesbury Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Carden, Sir R. W., M.P.	100	0	0
Bland, R. M., Esq.	10	0	0
The Misses Du Bois	2	2	0
Enderby, Miss	0	10	0
Heyes, J. F., Esq.	0	1	0
Mackenzie, W. Waldiel, Esq.	50	0	0
Paine, Jas., Esq.	10	10	0
Ringrove, E. R., Esq.	1	1	0
Rowley, Rev. W. J.	0	10	0
Taylor, G. N., Esq.	3	0	0
Verry, Mrs.	0	12	0

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	£	s.	d.
The Hon. Mrs. Gore (deceased)	100	15	1
Mirron, Wm., Esq. (the late)	200	0	0

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